Paris-Klosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Klosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts fo publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they nust in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Only Momentous Event.

A discussion is going on among our correspondents as to the cause or causes of a decline in Christian belief at this period of which they and many if not most other contemporary observers and philosophers think there are unmistakable signs discernible throughout Chris-

Computations of the Sunday church attendance made last month at New York, London and Liverpool show that the great majority of the population of these towns neglects that form of religious observance; but we have no like statistics of former periods with which to compare them, so as to determine if there has been any recent diminution in church attendance and how much it is, relatively. Our Catholic correspondents assume a great falling off, and they interpret it as an indication and a proof of the inability of Protestantism to satisfy the religious cravings of mankind. Before they are justified in drawing any such conclusion from church attendance merely they must be able to present comparative statistics to show that similar neglect of religious observance does not exist in Catholic countries and great towns, or, at least, is proportionately less to a significant degree. According to the statistics obtained in New York by Protestant enterprise it is as large relatively among nominal Catholics as among nominal Protestants in the population; but so loosely was the enumeration made that on neither side can any safe inference be drawn from it.

Of one fact, however, there is a complete demonstration, and it is that never at any period in the history of this country, at least, was the celebration of the day commemorative of the birth of JESUS CHRIST so general, so jubilant, so impressive as it is now. The Incarnation as an historical fact is the central doctrine of Christianity. Without it Christianity would not be a supernatural religion at all, but merely a system of human morals and philosophy. By the side of the event celebrated to-day by Christendom as a positive fact all other events in the history of the world are of utter insignificance. What else can be of any essential importance in human annals if nineteen hundred and two years ago " the only begotten Son of Gop Himself, for us men and for our salvation, came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin MARY"?

It is true that a large part of Protestant Christianity refused to accept this par- most zealous supporters of the original ticular day as the anniversary of the In- project. On the other hand, the Noncarnation, but of the Incarnation as an conformists, although substantial conhistorical event there never was any cessions have been made to them, still de- Club's Committee on Water Supply, Protestant dispute, except among the nounce the fundamental principle of a relatively small number of whom the bill by which all the rate payers in a given Unitarians are representative. That God | community are taxed for the support of actually came down to earth and was schools in which a sectarian religion is made man is the belief on which the taught. The political philosopher, for religion of Christianity rests, whether his part, surveys with interest the out-Catholic or Protestant. Moreover, the come of the prolonged and heated bration of Christmas which found ex- the British Parliament the Opposition, pression in New England within the though numerically weak to an almost memory of people still living in osten- unprecedented extent, has nevertheless tatious treatment of the day as purely secular by the performance of usual labor has passed away.

Everywhere Christmas has become the great holiday of the year by the common consent of Christendom, and its celebration is now as distinguished in the veritable anniversary of the Incarnation as in the Churches which have always made it the prime feast of the Christian year. Last Sunday we gave the elaborate programmes of Christmas music in Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches of New York. Practically, too. all the people render homage to the day as the foremost of festivals, even where they are without religious faith, Christian or other.

At least, formally, therefore, Christian observance is still maintained without diminution by the celebration of the Incarnation. The supreme importance of the Incarnation is recognized by all Christendom, so far, at least, as concerns the making of Christmas the supreme boliday of the year. And the manner in which the day is celebrated, in the making of free-will gifts, is still symbolic of the transcendent Gift on which Christian faith looks as an historical fact.

Christmas, writes a theologian in the Church Eclectic, is the celebration of "the most momentous event in the history of ourrace." If GoD came down to earth and | body of Anglicans in the Conservative became man it was the only really momentous event in human history.

Good Night, "Ladies"! There are no more "lady teachers' in Chicago. The School Management | BOT on behalf of the Roman Catholics Committee has revised the rules by substituting " woman " for " lady " in the extreme clerical party. As the moevery case where the latter expression | tion was a surprise, however, the rewas found. The lovers of simplicity monstrants were only able for the moand naters of pretence will applaud the change. Those of us who were brought up on Scorr and Cooper remember a became generally known, a violent agitawhole host of elegant and lovely " fe- | tion against it arose among High Churchmales." That phrase jars a little now and | men, who denounced Mr. Balfoun as a has a comic face. Every generation has traitor to the cause of religious education. its jargon and its affectations, and there | The clergy would be insulted, they said, is an affectation of downrightness as if the "priest" was no longer to be the well as of prune-lipped circumlocution. Were the American women of the twenties and thirties of the nineteenth century as prudish of speech as Mrs. Trot- men touching matters of faith. Blind LOPE painted them in her " Domestic | to the fact that they were justifying the Manners of the Americans"? Due allow- charge of the Nonconformists that the ance must be made for the satirical intention of the observer. At the present | tion bill was to hand children over to the day an affectation by no means harm- priests, the Ritualist clergy came within

less, the habit of using coarse and plain | a hair's breadth of converting a great

speech, is said to prevail among some women of high social pretensions in England and the United States. If JOSEPH Andrews is a little too good for human nature's daily food, Squire WESTERN'S brutality is not any less abominable.

But some words excellent in themselves and their proper place grow wearisome after years of iteration. "Lady" has long needed a vacation. It has its proper sense and pertinent use, but it loses distinction and becomes almost ridiculous when misapplied and overworked. It is a good old word, even if it has not the homely meaning of "bread-kneader, which an etymology dear to CARLYLE and RUSKIN gave it; but good old words may suffer in foolish mouths. "Lady teacher," " lady client," " lady doctor," sales lady," " lady stenographer," "shoplady," "lady cashier"-here is too much place for " ladies." " Lady friend " was good enough for TENNYSON and may perhaps be defended as a saver of time and words, but we do not like thee, " lady friend," and as for "gentleman friend,"

it wears " pants." When Mr. WILLIAM EVERETT wanted to have his little joke at the New Haven dons he used to say. " At Yale, the President's lady retires; at Harvard, the President's wife goes to bed." Perhaps this was rather a parable and example than a joke; and that accomplished scholar, good fellow and hater of the frayed title professor " meant thereby to teach his freshmen to be simple of speech.

Perhaps it is useless to regret anything that has happened in the world of English words. There inexorable law or fate prevails; and it may be sentimentalism to bewail necessity. Still, the ancient feminines such as "brewster," webster," " baxter," had their uses; and if there were a horrible-seeming word like " teacheress." " lady teacher " would not be. "Great Liddell and Scott!" the conservative may cry; "but 'lady teacher' is a beauty and a boon by the side of such a horror as 'teacheress.' " Very like. Habit is all, and the worst panhandler of a word may come to evening dress and respectability in time. Even in ushering "lady teacher" out of the Cook county schools let us not be too ill advised and sudden. Let us simply say we don't like it. An eminent prizefighter of this town "slugged in the eye" a stranger sitting opposite to himin a car. " What was the motive for the assault?" asked the Magistrate the next morning. "Aw, I didn't like his face." said the man of war. An argument, philosophically considered, of wide and deep force

In and about this town, where there are so many and many "ladies' and gents' restaurants," "gents' cabins " and so on the example of Chicago should be profitable for reproof.

England's Education Law Pleases Nobody.

In its final form the Education bill for England, which has so long occupied the House of Commons, gives unmixed satisfaction to neither of the great political parties. As amended with Mr. BAL-FOUR's consent, the measure is by no means what was hoped for by the High Church wing of the Anglican Communion. the representatives of which were the old-time Protestant aversion to the cele- discussion, because it proves that in proved strong enough to extort a compromise.

Passing over minor proofs of Mr. Bal-FOUR'S willingness to allay the anger of Nonconformists who talked of going to jail sooner than pay for religious teaching of which they disapproved, we come Churches which once rejected it as a to the crucial amendment to the eighth clause of the bill, which was moved by Col. KENYON-SLANEY in committee on Oct. 31, and which was accepted by Mr. BALFOUR. This amendment provided that religious instruction shall be given in a school not provided by the local education authorities, in accordance with the tenor of the provisions (if any) of the trust deed relating thereto, but shall be under the control of the manager. Now, of the six managers, two are appointed by the local authority, that is to say, by the County or District Council. It is obvious that, if these two appointees were Protestant Nonconformists, and if one of the other four managers were a Broad Churchman, disposed to act with them, a High Church Anglican or Catholic clergyman might be checked as | ing with the free use of water and withregards the kind of religious teaching he desired to give in a denominational school.

> The belief that such would be the effect of the amendment was, of is only when a pavement sinks or a street course, what commended it, not only to is flooded that leaks outside of buildings Nonconformists, but also to that large party who are opposed to giving the Ritualists a free hand. Mr. Balfoun's acceptance of Col. KENYON-SLANEY'S motion provoked at the time vehement remonstrance from Lord EDMOND TALand from Lord HUGH CECIL on behalf of ment to muster 41 votes against 211. When the significance of the amendment sole judge of the religious instruction to be given to the children of his parish, and if he was to consult a committee of laysole aim of the advocates of the Educa-

meeting at Albert Hall, which had been convoked for the purpose of supporting the Ministerial measure, into a meeting water system from new sources is five for indignant protest against the Premier's acceptance of an amendment which was looked upon as a Trojan horse. In the end, however, they accepted an assurance given to them by the Bishop of London, that, even with the Kenyon-Slaney amendment, the bill would prove better than nothing, and probably some means of working under it satisfactorily to the clergy would be found.

Naturally, the Nonconformists listened with complacency to the Ritualistic denunciation of the crucial amendment. If it be true, they say, that this amendment is a Trojan horse, so much the better. It is certain that, since the adoption of Col. KENYON-SLANEY'S motion, we hear next to nothing about organized opposition to the execution of the new law, that is to say, of a concerted refusal to submit to taxation for the support of denominational schools, which are henceforth saddled on the rates. All that Mr. Balfour has achieved, however, by his compromise is the avoidance of a convulsive outbreak of lawlessness. It is now probable that almost all of the Nonconformists will pay the addition to the rates which will be imposed by the new law, but they will not relish it, and they will miss no opportunity of expressing their bitterness at the ballot box. The recent municipal elections in England and the Parliamentary elections for the Cleveland and East Toxteth divisions have borne cumulative testimony to the Ministerial loss of popularity, and it now seems probable that the Education law will of itself suffice to defeat the Unionists at the next general election

Mrs. Grant and the Grant Tomb.

The letter which follows was written nearly eleven years ago by the widow of Gen. GRANT to the late Gen. CHARLES H. T. Collis, and, of course, has never before been published:

" 3 EAST 66TH STREET " Jan. 9th, 1892.

GRN'L COLLIS-Dear Sir: I wish to communite through you to the 'Grant Monument Asse ation.' Some weeks ago Mr. DUNCAN, the archi tect, who is to build the monument for my husband Gen'l GRANT, suggested, whilst shewing me the plans of said monument, that my remains should be placed in the same sarcophagus with those o Gen'l GRANT: this, he said, would sare space. wish now to most earnestly protest against this plan. Gen'l GRANT must have his own sarcophagus, and I my casket beside him. " Gen'l GBANT's identity must remain distinct

Hereafter when persons visit this spot, they must be able to say, 'Here rests Gen'l GRANT.' " Yours most sincerely.

" JULIA D. GRANT." Mrs. GRANT's wishes, thus directly and simply expressed, were respected in the arrangement of the final plan of the monument. Most people, we think, will be touched by her manifestation of a conscientious solicitude for the historic proprieties and a definite purpose perhaps at variance with the natural im-

pulse of the wife. This is why the chamber in which Gen. GRANT rests by the Hudson differs in one particular, so conspicuous that no visitor fails to observe it, from that other impressive tomb near the bank of the Seine.

Water.

The mass of information presented to the Mayor on Tuesday by the City preventable waste and leakage in the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx. emphasizes again the need of radical change in the administration of the distributive system of our municipal water works. Since 1880, according to this committee's investigations, the water poured into the pipes of Manhattan and The Bronx has increased at the rate of more than two and one-half times the rate of increase in the population, and yet it is estimated that at the present rate of consumption and leakage New York may be confronted with a shortage of water within two years.

It has been demonstrated that at least one-half of our present water supply is lost through defects in the city's dis tributing system and the lack of proper official inspection thereof. Part of this oss is caused by faulty street connections and defective plumbing in the interior of houses and buildings, and another large amount results from the careless waste of consumers. The present consumption of water in this city is about one hundred and twenty gallons a head a day. It has been shown in other cities that from forty to sixty gallons a day is a liberal allowance, with out imposing any deprivation or enforcing

any economy in use. The application of simple and scientific methods by a competent city administration will remove almost entirely these causes of waste without interferout increasing materially the cost to

private consumers. There is no system of inspection at present in this city worthy the name. It are detected. No particular investigation is made of plumbing or of the consumption of water within buildings and there is no general system of metering. The obvious remedies for these administrative faults are the establishment of an adequate force of competent inspectors to ascertain and locate leaks throughout the water system and the general installation of meters.

Two years ago the city was warned by the Engineering Committee of the Merchants' Association that the capacity of our present sources of water supply would be absorbed by the end of 1903. New sources cannot be had before 1909, and probably not until much later than that. It is estimated that after the completion of the Cornell dam the greatest safe, permanent yield of water from the Croton watershed and the Bronx-Byram watershed will not exceed from 290,000,-000 to 300,000,000 gallons per day directly available for the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx. If there be no change in the rate of increase in population in these boroughs and of per capita consumption at the close of 1903 the daily consumption will exceed the daily yield

hopeful estimate of the time necessary for the construction of an additional years, and the city will not be in a position financially to begin the enormous

outlay that such new works will require before 1904.

At the public hearing held by the Mayor's special commission on Tuesday THOMAS A. FULTON, secretary of the Citizens' Union, after calling attention to the wasteful extravagance of our present water-distributing system, added to some excellent suggestions for the remedy of this leakage the statement that he was " opposed to the acquisition of new watersheds by and for this city until the present supply is fully exploited," with the one exception of the watershed of Ten Mile River. It is necessary that the waste of water in this city be stopped, but it is just as necessary that the city should make proper provisions for the enormous growth that is expected in the future, and that it cannot do if it fails in providing sufficient water.

The failure of the builder JOSEPH A FARLEY, which was announced this week brings to mind the extraordinary change which has taken place in the production of housing in Manhattan in the last few years Mr. FARLEY started in business for himself as a builder in 1897, selecting the West Side as a field of operation, as his father, TER-ENCE FARLEY, one of the best known of a former generation of private-house builders, had been identified particularly with that locality. In 1897, however, the electric current began to be supplied uptown by generating companies, with the result of introducing there a comparatively inexpensive type of elevator apartment house. The new elevator apartment quickly superseded all other forms of housing in building operations undertaken in the middle-grade residence districts. Private houses practically ceased to be built, except in the fashionable midtown and East Side quarter, where land values are sufficiently high to preclude the erection of apartments as inrestments. The tendency to restrict private-house construction to the Fifth avenue section was strengthened by the rapid growth of that neighborhood. The consolidation of the steel industry and other similar enterprises financed in Wall Street brought a great influx of out-of-town capitalists, many of whom paid fabulous prices for homes on Murray Hill and the upper East Side. Most of the private-house builders who had been active on the West Side, including JOSEPH A. FARLEY'S brothers JAMES A. FARLEY and JOHN T. FARLEY transferred their activities to the distric south and east of the Park. JOSEPH FARLEY looked upon the check to the private-house market on the West Side as of short life found himself unable to extricate his capital, and remained where he was.

A committee of the Society for Psychica Research should be sent to Missouri at once There are strange doings and goings-on in the cheese factory between Theresa and Lomira. A telegraphic or telepathic despatch in the Milwaukee Scatinel takes us right into the midst of the troubles:

" At certain hours an appalling, blood-curdling sound roars through the building. Window panes and globes of lanterns fall to the floor, but break not: doors open and shut, and keys fall over seem ingly of their own accord. The Chicago owners of the factory have been notified and detectives are expected out to investigate the mystery

There is something remarkably haunting about cheese; and cheese strong enough to roar is possible enough. A cheese ghost would be an interesting and able spirit.

The formal retirement from the leadership of the Tammany organization in the Twenty-ninth Assembly district, which contains a larger number of distinguished office holders than any other in town, of JOHN F. CARROLL has been ascribed to various reasons, some personal and some political but it is due actually to compliance in an inexorable usage of Tammany that there can only be one recognized leader of that organization. Where two men ride a horse one must needs ride behind. Such is the inveterate Tammany rule. To the post of leader Mr. CARROLL aspired after NIXON withdrew, and he had the cooperation of some minor leaders hoping for benefit or a larger measure of influence through his control. But the recognition of MURPHY as leader and the knowledge that he had a majority of the districts on his side left CAR-TOLL the choice either of acquiescing in the leadership of the new Tammany boss or of maintaining a desultory and unpromising warfare against him, with diminishing following and contracting influence.

It is and has always been an essentia feature of the organization of Tammany Hall that one person, and one only, should be at its head. Leaders come and leaders go in Tammany, but there is only one hand a the tiller.

Another human divining rod has been divined by the Chicago Tribune: " FLORENCE, Col., Dec. 22 -- MORGAN REERE,

13 year old boy, employed with his father in mining coal at Williamsburg, has developed the power of eating oil wells by a peculiar tingling sensation in This boy's gift or power is exactly the re-

verse of that of our fortunate friend, Col. JIM GUFFEY of Pennsylvania and Texas. The oil strata feel a peculiar tingling sensation when they "locate" Col. GUPPEY, and rush uncontrollably up to meet and greet

The Hon. WILLIAM HARRISON SMITH of Pleasant Cave, Tenn., has gone to Missouri to grow up with the country. He is one of our best-known growers. He "has never ceased to grow, although he is now in his forty-second year." He is six feet nine in his stocking feet. In the pride of his inches he has determined to issue a challenge, "offering to measure length with the tallest man in the State of Missouri." As a growing man, he has the advantage of most other human skyscrapers, but he is merely a " sawedoff " by the side of various far-reaching fellows. Six feet nine inches, is he? The Hon, CY SULLOWAY of New Hampshire, who gave up growing years ago at the appeal of his fellow citizens, who feared he would lessen the attractions of the White Mountains, is nine feet six in his bare feet The Hon. CYCLONE DAVIS of Texas never sits up in summer time, as the lightning would be sure to pick him. Still, we have no wish to discourage the Hon. WILLIAM HARRISON SMITH, who may grow into something worth looking at.

The January number of the World's Work an important and interesting number of a maga-zine that is always pushing to the front. The "March of Events" is noteworthy for its subjects treated editorially; and the general contents of th number deserve attention and careful consideration from among them only a few can be mentioned Mr. Alfred Mosely's "Americanism for Britis Trade Unions: Mr. M. G. Cunniff's "What the British Unionists Saw;" Thomas R. Dawley's "The Man that Falled;" Mr. Lewis Nizon's "The Battleship of the Future," and Mr. Robert H. Montgom ery's "Our Industrial Invasion of Canada." The portraits and illustrations of the number are, as

SANTA CLAUS.

(Since its original production THE SUN has refrained from reprinting the article on Santa Claus which appeared several years ago, but this year the requests for its reproduction have been numerous that we yield. Scrap books seem to be received in the production of wearing out.)

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently, the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is pumpered among the friends of THE SUN: "DEAR POITOR I am 8 years old.

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus! 115 WEST 5TH ST." VINGINIA O'HANLON. Virginia, your little friends are wrong,

of a sceptical age. They do not believe ex be which is not comprehensible by their little be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the

whole of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childbood fills the world would

be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might a well not believe in fairies! You might get our papa to hire men to watch in himneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see but that's no proof that they are not there Nobody can conceive or imagine all wonders that are unseen and unseeable in he world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and ee what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strengt of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory peyond. Is it all real? Ah. Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make

The Methodism in New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN of this date an article entitled "Methodism Standing Still" needs to be both corrected and explained.

glad the heart of childhood.

First—It is not true that there was a loss of 2,182 members in "Manhattan and The Bronx and Brooklyn" in 1902. There was an apparent loss of precisely that number of mem bers in the entire territory occupied by the New York and the New York East Confer-

secondly—If the explanation of this diminution, which is apparent and not real, given in the Methodist Year Book for 1903, is read, he "chagrin" of "many Methodists of Manhattan and Brooklyn" will be rendered much

The Eastern Swedish Conference, which was The Eastern Swedish Conference, which was organized in 1901, is composed of the Swedish members of the New England, New England Southern, New York, New York East and Wilmington Conferences. This fact should be taken into consideration in connection with the statistical reports from those Conferences for 1902. Decreases in membership, for example, in any given Conference may be due to the loss of stations and circuits which were transferred from it to the Eastern Swedish Conference. The statistics for 1902 plus set off furnish the only correct basis of comparison between the years 1901 and 1902.

The membership of the Eastern Swedish

between the years 1901 and 1902.

The membership of the Eastern Swedish Conference is 3,709. Of this number 1,400 were set off from churches in Manhattan and Brooklyn and 470 from churches in other parts of the New York and the New York East Conferences. The loss of 2,182 members is therefore reduced by 1,870, and is actually 312 in both Conferences. Let me actually 312 in both Conferences. actually 312 in both Conferences. I add that the Methodist Episcopal denomina-tion shows an increase in membership in 1902 of 47,257. The membership now aggre-gates 2,097,772. STEPHEN V. R. FORD, Editor Methodist Year Book, New York, Dec. 22.

The Passenger Car Lines.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Whenever public indignation against the outof Manhattan and Brooklyn reaches a boilwill be done to compel the management to give better service, they at once use the "rush hour" clock to hide their shortcomings. The Brooklyn "L" officers say they are "doing their best." How about the service not in the ush hours? I have waited, more than one night, for more than twenty minutes at the teid Avenue station for a train to the Bridge. not with standing the fact that the polite young lady who runs the five-cent counter assured me that the trains were running very eight minutes. Then the vile condition of the cars is a disgrace to civilization. The seats and even the woodwork are coated with dirt and grease, and the air is loaded with an odor that makes a pigpen smell sweet in comparison. If the city officials were "doing their best" to protect the public, the officers of the Brooklyn elevated would be

officers of the Brooklyn elevated would be in jail.

The officers of the Manhattan also cry rush hours," but how about the Sunday service and the night trains? The few trains they run are loaded to the doors, and for five Sundays I have been unable to get a seat between Fifty-third street and Eighteenth street on the Sixth avenue line. On one occasion, at 6:15 P. M., even ladies were compelled to ride on the outside platforms. In heaven's name, is this great city helpess in face of such a situation?

DEC. 23.

TALI ESEN MORGAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I observe it is proposed that the surface roads should carry passengers free, unless supplied with a seat! How would this diminish the crowding? If people are willing to pay now 5 cents for holding on to a strap, how many more will crowd the passageways, aye, and refuse seats, if they can be carried without charge?

AN OLD NEW YORKER.

Arnold's Story of Ill-Treatment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Relative to the serial in THE SUN by the late Samuel Arnold, would say I believe he has done ar injustice to the country and the service Have seen letter by both Arnold and Mudd Have seen letter by both Arnoid and Mudd to Capt. Prentice after his discharge that would seem rather contradictory to his claims of norrible treatment while there. He seems to have let his imagination run riot, for in these letters he expresses nothing but the greatest gratitude for the kindness they received. While personal, I believe these letters would give a different light on the matter. Capt. Prentice has been asked by many of his comrades to reply, as one expressed it, to the unmitigated lies in regard to their treatment. With all due respect to the dead, it seems as if this ought not go into history.

mistory
Capt. W. R. Prentice is residing at Attica
N. Y. He lost his evesight and is very ill at
present, but I wish he could reply to Arnold's
article, as I know he has valuable information and data
HORNELLSVILLE, N. Y., Dec 21
Capt. Prentice had an article in April
McClure's on "Dry Tortugas"
F. M. P.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have for years thought that there ought to be in New York monument to the Mothers in the United States. and I am sure that it would be the grandest monu ment that the world has ever seen, as it would appeal to every man, woman and child. I an convinced that THE SUN is the paper to put that

There is no man too poor to contribute to it and properly gone at, the result would make all the world admire the United States for doing it. Mrs. KATE L. Ross

MURGANTON, N. C., Dec. 21.

MORE TORACCO IN THE ST. GEORGE Only 160 Pounds, However, and Nobel Is Held for Smuggling.

Inspectors from the Custom House continued their search yesterday in the coal bunkers of the Phoenix line steamer St George, where on Tuesday they found much smuggled tobacco. A crowd stood on the pier at Sixth street. Hoboken, while the search was being made. They seeme to be disappointed when they were told that the second day's hunt had not panned out as well as the inspectors believed it would. The customs officers did no coal shovelling yesterday while looking for smuggled tobacco, for Dock Superintendent Mason had a gang of laborers on hand

remove the coal f om the vessel. After digging through the coal for an hour the laborers unearthed a white canvas bag such as is used by sailors to carry their clothing. When the bag was lifted from the hold of the steamer it was opened. Eighty packages of tobacco, each containing two pounds, were found in the bag. The duty on it would have been \$2 a pound if it had been brought in by the regular

way.
Capt. Pugh, who was in charge of the vessel, told the customs inspectors that eleven members of the crew had deserted since the first bag of smuggled tobacco was found on Tuesday. He added that he did not believe that any of the deserters were in the smuggling scheme. vere in the smuggling scheme.
Inspectors Driscoll, Waldeck and Angeles

vaited on the steamer until all the coa and been turned over and the vessel com pletely searched. Aside from the 160 pounds of tobacco found yesterday and the 1,200 pounds found on Tuesday, no ther contraband articles were found or ne steamer, and her captain was told that might start on his voyage to Antwerp At the offices of the ship's agents, San

derson & Son, in State street, a representa-tive of the shipping firm said that some of the newspapers had exaggerated the story of the smuggled tobacco. It was also stated that the customs authorities

also stated that the customs authorities had released the ship's agents from all blame in the matter and that no arrests would be made.

The steamer will sail at 7 o'clock this morning and in the meantime the customs officers will make an effort to find the persons who buried the tobacco beneath the coal in the ship's hold.

CLEAN SWEEP BY SHERIFF-ELECT Melody of Kings Will Clear All Republicans Out of His Office.

Sheriff-elect William E. Melody of Brooklyn yesterday announced the following appointments on his staff: James Dunne, under sheriff, salary \$6,000 year; Charles H. Hyde, counsel, \$5,000;

William H. McLaughlin, warden of the jail, \$3,000; John Wilson, deputy warden, \$2,000. Mr. Dunne served as under sheriff during Sheriff Walton's administration and had previously been an Alderman and keeper

of the City Hall. He has been one of the

most influential Democratic leaders in

He has been noted as an athlete and is still a crack handball player.

Mr. Hyde was Sheriff's counsel during the administration of Sheriff's Creamer and Walton.

Mr. McLaughlin, who will take charge of the idle and large the still country to the still countr

South Brooklyn for the past thirty years

and Walton.

Mr. McLaughlin, who will take charge of the jail on Jan. 1, is a nephew of Hugh McLaughlin, the Democratic manager. He served several terms in the Assembly and was long connected with the Charities Department. Mr. Wilson has served as deputy warden of the jail for several years. Sheriff Melody, whose term only lasts for a year, has over thirty more appointments to make, and he will probably announce them to-morrow. He contends that all the subordinate places in his office nounce them to-morrow. He contends that all the subordinate places in his office are confidential and all the present Repub-lican incumbents will have to vacate.

Ice Cream Man a Bankrupt.

Elbert C. Wilson, long engaged as a caerer and ice cream manufacturer in Brookvn. and his wife, Elizabeth S. Wilson yesterday filed petitions in bankruptcy in the United States Court. The joint liabilities are \$63,698.35 and the assets only \$100. Among the eighty or ninety creditors are the Young Men's Christian Association, the Oxford Club, the Parkway Driving Club and the Varuna Boat Club, of which M. W. so was a member and which have arge bills for dues.

Gen. Stnart and the Richmond Women. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: Gen. Stuart

ould never learn a thing that never was dreamed the and in fact all the Confederate officers were oo much concerned and troubled about the safet of their Government and the treasure and spoil children: they were left to the tender care of the brave and generous men Capt, Venable now seek Gen. Lee knew, and so did President Davis, that

On our marches around Petersburg and Rich-mond, a standing order nade it the duty of each dvision commander to properly safeguard the nonses within their lines, and protect noncombat-ants, including women and children, from insulf

ants, including women and children, from insuit and injury.

Near Farmville Va., the last week in March, 1885, the Flith Army Corps was marching to relieve Sheridan, Gen. Warren in command. At a house standing alone, a beautiful woman said: "(an you help me care for my children until your army marches past; we are afraid of so many strangemen." I will try, ""God bless you. I can tell by the crossed cannon on your cap you are of the artiflery," "Yes, ma'am, h avy artiflery from Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md.

She gave me a hot corn cake made of yellow meal, and two thin slices of bacon and a glass of water. "That is all I can give you," she said: "I trust you will not be captured or killed. Give me your name, then I can help you as you have helped me. Gen. J. B. Gordon and Gen. Longstreet are friends of mine."

your hame, then I can help you as you have helped me. Gen. J. B. Gordon and Gen. Longstreet are friends of mine."
"I cannot give names. I understand it too well. My brigade passed your house three hours ago and this order is an old one that placed a guard on this house. You say by order of Gen. Warren you were guarded until the provost mirshal came. He commands the Fifth Corps, and among the men I am known as 'Warren's pet."
Gen. G. K. Warren was in command of the city of Richmond and he being dead I speak for him. The women of the city of Richmond were honored and respected by officers and men alike.

HENRY M. RAWSON,
First Brigade, Third Division, Fifth Army Corps.

LAKE VIEW, N. J., Dec. 22.

Christmastide.

December's nights are cold and long. His days are dark and drear, But through them comes the sweetest song That mortals ever hear. It is the song the angels sang -

Few were the listeners then, But through the world the echoes rang-"Peace and good will to men!" A glory in the skies afar Shines like a heavenly gen

Which rose at Bethichem. It lights the lagging winter days It crowns the dying year, And earth grows brighter in its blaze For Christmastide is here. Sometimes our tumult to the air

It is the radiance of that star

O'erwhelms the music's flow Sometimes our torches' flash and flar O'ercomes the heavenly glow; But willing heart and listening ear May hear that song again-It is the soul of Christmas cheer-"Peace and good will to men!"

NINETTE M. LOWATER. Effulgence, never seen before, Fills sky and sea and slumbering earth And to the farthest angel tells The message of the Saviour's birth

The dazzling worlds in heaven's dome Grow pale before that wondrous light, For planet never shone as shines

And 'neath that star a slender girl With soft brown eyes, hears angels sing And whispers to her new-born son: "Light of the World! My babe, my King!"

VIRGINIA B. HARRISON

RISKS OF BONDING SALOONS. Surety Company Liable, No Matter Who THE !

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week.

Runs the Place. In a decision handed down vesterday Supreme Court Justice Keener holds that surety company that has gone on the bond of a liquor dealer for his license does not become freed of responsibility for infracions of the liquor laws in the saloon named in the license even when the livuor dealer has transferred the license to another

person. The question arose in several suits brought by State Excise Commissioner Cullinan to recover from the surety company on the bond of the original licensee the amount of \$1,000, being double the cost of the license, under the law which directs the forfeiture of this bond on the directs the forfeiture of this bond on the conviction of the saloonkeeper of excise violations. Among the cases before the Court were those of Frank L. Parker of the Parker House and Otto Kuck of 319 Bowery. Both had transferred their licenses, the former to another lessee of the Parker House and the latter to the notorious McGurk. Both licenses were revoked for violations, and the Fidelity and Casualty Company was sued for \$1,000 in each case.

The defence was that the transfers of

Company was sued for \$1,000 in each case. The defence was that the transfers of ownership having been made without the knowledge of the surety company the latter could not be held liable. Justice Keener holds that the company's liability covered the entire year during which the license was to run, and that the transfer of the license could in no way affect this liability.

SUE OLD MRS. HUGHES'S LAWYER. Trust Company Will Try to Recevers

\$66,000 for Incompetent Widow. Supreme Court Justice Scott has auhorized the United States Trust Company, as committee of the property of Mrs. Louise Beauchamp Hughes, the octogenarian widow who was recently declared incompetent, and who has an income of \$10.000 year, to institute proceedings against Edward G. Niles, a Washington lawyer, to obtain from him such property as he may

have belonging to Mrs. Hughes and an accounting of her property.

In the petition of the trust company it is alleged that Niles, while acting as the attorney and confidential adviser of Mrs. Hughes ney and confidential adviser of Mrs. Hughes obtained from her property, money and furniture valued altogether at \$66,000. It is also alleged that on June 30 last Niles had Mrs. Hughes declared insane and caused her to be unlawfully imprisoned. He had himself appointed as a committee of her property, it is alleged, and continued to act in that capacity down to Nov. 17 last, when Mrs. Hughes was liberated from Dr. Kellogg's sanitarium at Riverdale by Justice Hall.

MOVING HEADQUARTERS HERE.

Congregational General Association to Leave Syracuse for New York. The headquarters of the Congregational General Association of the State, for many years at Syracuse, are to be moved to this city. The Rev. Charles W. Shelton, at one time a missionary in South Dakota, but for eleven years Eastern Field Secretary of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, has been elected secretary of the State association. When he accepts he will probably be chosen superintendent of the local Church Extension Society. Mr. Shelton has been most successful as field secretary for the national organization.

Cornell Gets a Bust of Its Founder

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 24.-President Schurman's secretary announced to-day that Cornell University had received a gift of a life-size bust of Ezra Cornell, founder of the university, from Mrs. Nannie Ream Hoxie, who cast the model from sittings obtained in Mr. Cornell's lifetime. A bronze cast of the bust will be made and brought to Cornell. Mrs. Hoxie cast the statue of Abraham Lincoln which is now in the rotunda of the National Capitol, and one of Admiral Farragut, which now stands in Farragut Square, Washington.

Washington Society Notes

Foraker were hosts at dinner to-night. Their guests included Mr. and Mrs. King Wainwright and Mrs. Chapman Smith of Philadelphia, Miss Hitchcock, Miss Fuller, Miss Hagner, Mr. Pulido of Venezuelan Legation and Dr. James

The Austrian Minister and Baroness Hengelmüller have as guests for Christmas Consul-General von de Mufy of New York and Miss Ruth Snyder, niece of Ambassador

Rear Admiral Cooper to Succeed Wildes. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-Rear Admiral Philip H. Cooper, now in charge of the second coast defence district, with headquarters at Coaster's Island, Newport harbor, has been selected to succeed Rear Admiral Frank Wildes as second in com-mand of the American fleet in Asiatic waters. He will become the commander waters. He will become the commander of the southern squadron with station on the flagship Rainbow at Cavité. Admiral Wildes, who has been ordered home be-cause of ill health, will leave Cavité tomorrow for San Francisco.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-The battleship Massachusetts has arrived at Port of Spain, Trinidad, the gunboate Hist and Vixen, at San Juan, and the gunboat Prince-ton and the collier Saturn, at Cavité.

The torpedo boat destroyer Worden, now at the Norfolk Navy Yard, has been ordered into commission. The gunboat Callao, captured from the Spaniards by Admiral Dewey, has been placed in com-mission at Cavité.

Prof. Forney of Alabama Killed Acel dentally.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 24.-Jacob Forney, professor of pedagogy in the State University at Tuscaloosa, while out shooting sparrows in his garden at Springville to-day, was killed by the accidental discharge of a parlor rifle. He was one of the best-known educators in the South. His father was the late Major-Gen. John H. Forney of the Confederate Army.

Gov. Longino Offers Rewards for Whiteeape MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 24.-Gov. Longino of Mississippi this morning issued a proc lamation offering a reward of \$500 each for the arrest and conviction of whitecaps. The rewards are limited to \$10,000 in any county. The troubles are serious. Negroes are being forced by the hundred to leave the lands they have occupied for

\$50,000 to Go to Yale. NEW HAVEN, Dec. 24 .- Notification has

come to the treasurer of Yale University that by the will of the late Mrs. Laura Currier of New York \$50,000 has been left to the university after the death of a step-son, who is now 60 years old. The income is to be used in alding needy students.

Dihenker. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT! At last the

only real expressive language has its inning in THE SUN, viz.: Peur sylvania Dutch. "Piker" is wrong. It's "dihenker." not "dihanker." "Wos die dihenker" is the original of New York's "Wot t'ell." Ask the man, Mr. Baer. WASRINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.

They Thrive on Kisses.

First Insect - What makes that crowd of microbe so happy? Second Insect-They just heard that seventy carloads of mistletoe were shipped her the holidays.

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